

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 26, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-11, 19-26 and 28-30 are pending in the present Application. Claims 2 and 27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 12-18 were previously canceled, and Claims 1, 19, 22-25 and 29-30 have been amended, leaving Claims 1, 3-11, 19-26 and 28-30 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

First Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-8, 11, and 19-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587) further in view of Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393). As noted above, claims 2 and 27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot with regard to claims 2 and 27. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

While Applicant continues to respectfully disagree with the rejection, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 19, 23 and 26 to recite, among other things, that the conference request is received in the control engine from at least one of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, a wireless device via a wireless transmission and a computer via a web interface. Support for these features can be found at least on page 6, lines 10-23 and on page 11, lines 10-20. Claims 1, 19, 23 and 26 now also further recite that the timer facility includes one or more timers that can be set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, wherein upon expiration of a pre-determined timer setting, the call control engine retrieves the future audio conference request information from the conference call database thereby enabling the call facility to begin placing audio connections, and wherein the call control engine sets up the future audio conference upon at least one of the expiration of the timers in the timer facility and polling the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference

request information and set up the future audio conference. Support for these features can be found on at least page 8, lines 4-20.

In contrast, Wu discloses, among other things, a multi-point telephone conferencing system including storage areas for storing contact information and schedule information for a plurality of participants, a multi-point conference server and access to a wireless and wired communication networks. Hogan discloses, among other things, a call conferencing system and method that includes a conference call controller and conference bridge. Culbreth discloses, among other things, a personal messaging agent that can automate routine scheduling, coordinating and information gathering tasks. Applicant submits that the references taken alone in combination do not disclose, among other things, Applicant's timer facility that includes one or more timers that can be set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, wherein upon expiration of a pre-determined timer setting, the call control engine retrieves the future audio conference request information from the conference call database thereby enabling the call facility to begin placing audio connections, and wherein the call control engine sets up the future audio conference upon at least one of the expiration of the timers in the timer facility and polling the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Wu, Hogan and Culbreth teaches or suggests these features.

For at least the above reasons, Claims 1, 19, 23 and 26 are patentable over Wu in view of Hogan and Culbreth. Claims 3-8, 11 and 25 depend from Claim 1, Claims 20-22 depend upon Claim 19, Claim 24 depends upon Claim 23, and Claim 28 depends upon Claim 26, and is patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth for at least the reasons advanced with reference to Claims 1, 19, 23 and 26.

Second Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587) and Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) further in view of Roy (US 6,697,341). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Roy was relied upon for disclosing that a host destination is an Internet

Protocol (IP) address. Roy, however, fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Hogan and Culbreth as discussed above with reference to Claim 1. Claims 9 and 10 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth in view of Roy for at least the reasons advanced with respect to Claim 1.

Third Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587) and Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) further in view of Buskirk, Jr. (US 6,178,183). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Buskirk, Jr. was relied upon for disclosing that a host destination is an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Buskirk, Jr., however, fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Hogan and Culbreth as discussed above with reference to Claim 26. Claims 29 and 30 depend from Claim 26 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth in view of Buskirk, Jr. for at least the reasons advanced with respect to Claim 26.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicant. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested. If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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